

REMARKS

Claims 14-32, all the claims presently pending in the application, stand rejected upon informalities. Claim 29 stands objected to. This amendment is being submitted based on a telephonic interview between the Examiner, Jeffrey R. West, the Examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff, and the undersigned attorney on December 7, 2004. During the interview, agreement was reached as to amended claim language which would overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraph, rejections made in the Office Action of October 29, 2004. The only remaining issue raised by the Examiner was whether the proposed changes would constitute a new issue requiring further consideration and/or search. Applicants contended that the proposed changes should not constitute a new issue as the amended language is derived from language previously considered by the Examiner, and has now simply been further defined for clarity and to more clearly correspond with the specification (substitute specification dated November 18, 2003). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections/objections based on the following discussion.

I. The Objection to the Claims

Claim 29 stands objected to because of informalities. As such, Applicants have amended claim 29 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

II. The 35 U.S.C. §112, First and Second Paragraphs, Rejections

Claims 14-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. In response to the Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions, Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner as indicated above and in accordance with the agreed upon language discussed during the aforementioned telephonic interview on December 7, 2004. Again, it is contended by Applicants that the amended claimed language should not constitute a new issue requiring further consideration and/or search as the amended language is derived from language previously considered by the Examiner and has now simply been further defined for clarity and to more clearly correspond with the specification (substitute specification dated November 18, 2003). In particular the previous claimed language referred to "predetermined classes", whereas the amended claimed language further defines this as "first classes" and a "second class". Such a change should not constitute a "new issue". Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these rejections and to pass the claims to allowance.

III. Formal Matters and Conclusion

With respect to the objections and rejections to the claims, the claims have been amended, above, to overcome the objections and rejections in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections to the claims.

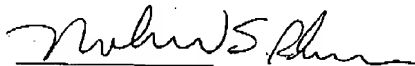
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 14-32, all the claims presently pending in the application, are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit Account Number 09-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 9, 2004



Mohammad S. Rahman
Registration No. 43,029
McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
2568-A Riva Road, Suite 304
Annapolis, MD 21401
Voice: (301) 261-8625
Fax: (301) 261-8825
Customer Number: 29154